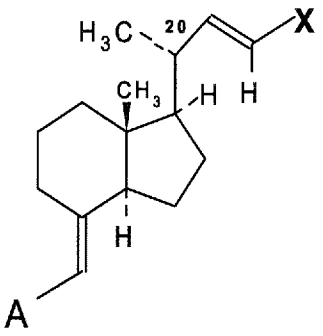
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

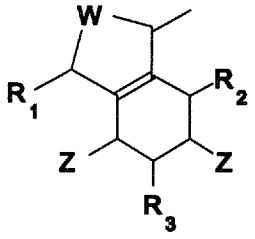
1. (Currently Amended) A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I)



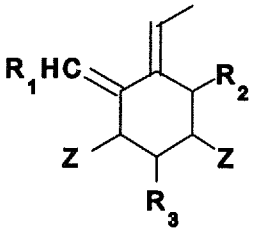
(I)

wherein:

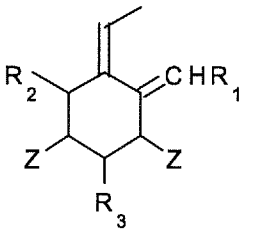
- X represents a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine and
- A is selected from any of the moieties corresponding to ~~general~~ formulas ~~(A1),~~ (A2) and (A3)



(A1)



(A2)



(A3)

in which:

- Z and Z' are independently selected from hydrogen, a hydroxyl group and an -OR protected hydroxyl group, where R is a hydroxyl protective group <u>selected from ethers, esters, cyclic acetals and ketals, and cyclic ortho esters</u>;

~~- W represents a dienophile selected from SO2 and a diacylazo group such as 4-phenyl-1,2,4-triazolin-3,5-dione or phthalazin-1,4-dione;~~ and

- R1, R2 and R3 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, a hydroxyl group, an -OR protected hydroxyl group, wherein R is a hydroxyl protective group, C1-C6 alkyl or C1-C6 alkenyl, optionally substituted with halogen, hydroxyl, cyano or amino, or a dialkyl(C1-C5)ether or alkyl(C1-C5)amino group.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is an iodine atom.

3. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein W is the SO2 group.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R1, R2 and R3 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen and hydroxyl.

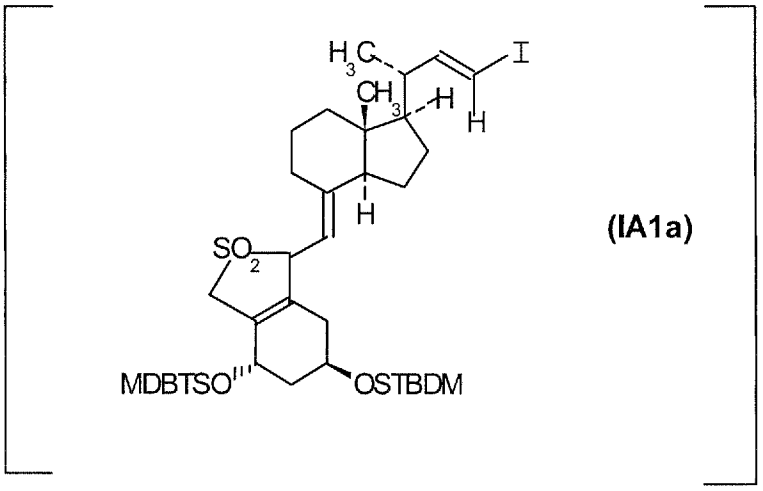
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R1, R2 and R3 are simultaneously hydrogen.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Z and Z´ are independently selected from a hydroxyl group and an -OR protected hydroxyl group in which the protective group is selected from a silyl ether and a carboxylic ester.

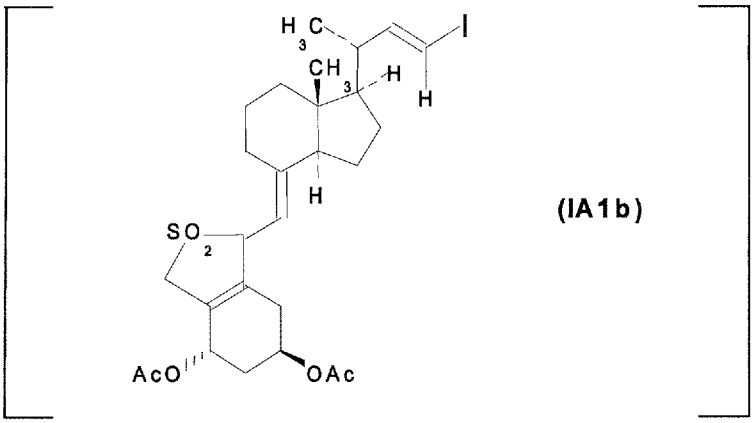
7. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein simultaneously:

- X is an iodine atom,
- W is the SO2 group,
- R1, R2 and R3 are hydrogen, and
- Z and Z' are independently selected from a hydroxyl group and an -OR protected hydroxyl group in which the protective group is selected from a silyl ether and a carboxylic ester group.

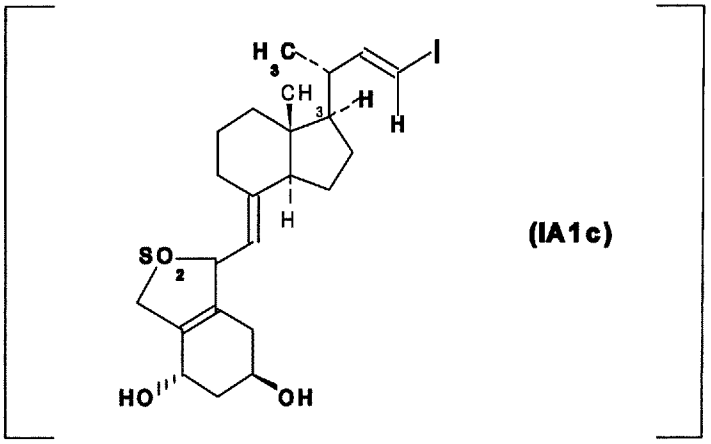
8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group formed by:



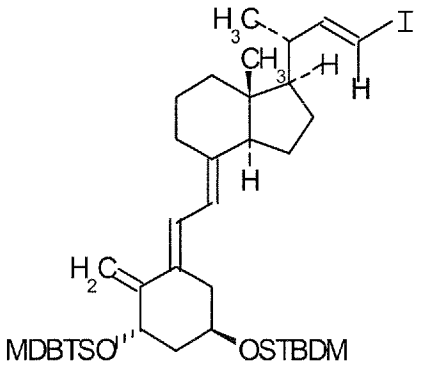
(IA1a)



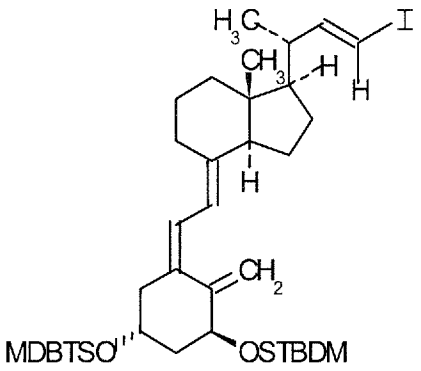
(IA1b)



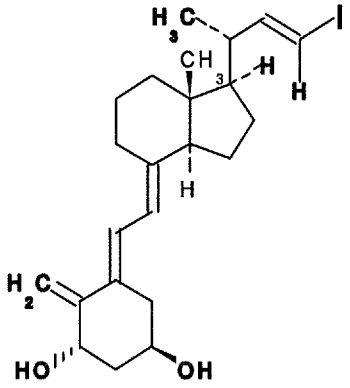
(IA1c)



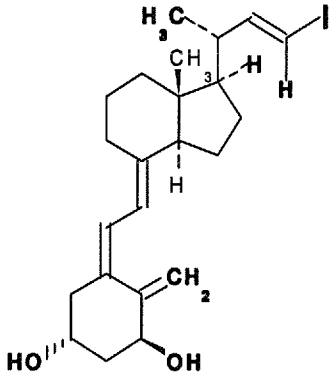
(IA2a)



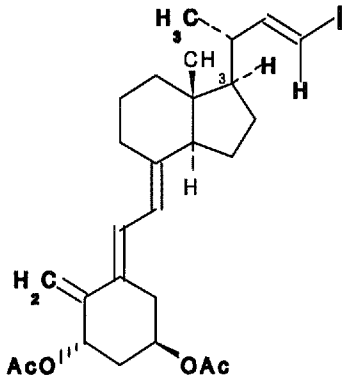
(IA3a)



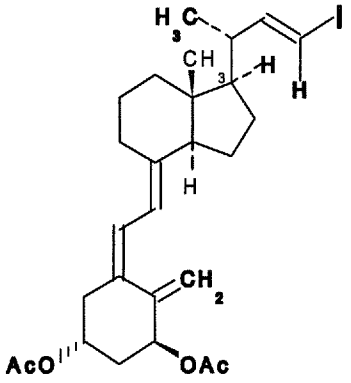
(IA2c)



(IA3c)



(IA2b)



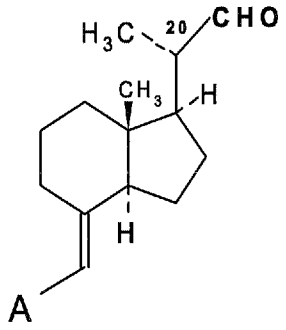
(IA3b)

where

STBDM or MDBTS represents a t-butyldimethylsilyl group; and

OAc or AcO represent an acetoxy group.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, comprising reacting an aldehyde of ~~general~~ formula (VI)



(VI)

wherein A has the meaning indicated in relation to the compounds of ~~general~~ formula (I), with a haloform selected from chloroform, bromoform and iodoform, in the presence of a divalent chromium (Cr2+) salt or complex ~~and, if so desired, converting the compound of formula (I) into another desired compound of formula (I)~~.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the reaction of the aldehyde with the haloform is carried out in a polar aprotic solvent.

11. (Original) A process according to claim 10, wherein said polar aprotic solvent is an ether.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein said polar aprotic solvent is tetrahydrofuran (THF).

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein the reaction of the aldehyde with the haloform is carried out at a temperature comprised between -50°C and +30°C.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to any of claims 9 to 13 claim 9, wherein said divalent chromium salt is Cr2+ chloride (Cl2Cr).

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein the divalent chromium can be regenerated with manganese/ trichloromethylsilane.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein the divalent chromium is obtained in situ from a trivalent chromium salt by means of reaction with a metal hydride or with tetrakis(dimethylaminoethylene), or by electroreduction, or by metal manganese.

17. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 9, comprising converting the obtained compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I), such that when ~~that:~~

~~- when moiety A in the starting aldehyde (VI) corresponds to general formula (A1) and the compound of formula (I) is wished to be obtained in which A is the moiety of general formula (A2), the product obtained from the reaction of the aldehyde with the haloform in the presence of a Cr2+ complex or salt is reacted with a base,~~

~~- when moiety A in the starting aldehyde (VI) corresponds to general formula (A1) and the compound of formula (I) is wished to be obtained in which A is the moiety of general formula (A3), the product obtained from the reaction of the aldehyde with the haloform in the presence of a Cr2+ complex or salt is first reacted with a base and then subjected to UV or VIS light irradiation until obtaining the 5(Z) configuration, and~~

~~when~~ moiety A in the starting aldehyde (VI) corresponds to ~~general~~ formula (A2) and the compound of formula (I) is wished to be obtained in which A is the moiety of ~~general~~ formula (A3), the product obtained from the reaction of the aldehyde with the haloform in the presence of a Cr2+ complex or salt is subjected to UV or VIS light irradiation until obtaining the 5(Z) configuration.

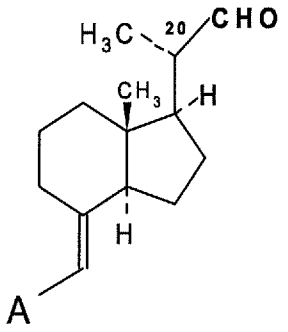
18. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 17, wherein when a moiety of general formula (A1) is to be converted into a moiety of formula (A2), the base to be used is selected from alkaline metal carbonates and bicarbonates, and the reaction is carried out in a polar protic or aprotic solvent.

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein when a moiety of ~~general~~ formula (A2) is to be converted into a moiety of ~~general~~ formula (A3), light irradiation is carried out in the presence of iodine or diphenyl selenide and diffuse light, or else in the presence of photosensitizers derived from anthracene, acridine or phenazine and ultraviolet light.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein the compounds of ~~general~~ formula (I) in which Z and/or Z′ are free hydroxyl groups are obtained by means of deprotection of the corresponding compounds in which Z and Z′ are (-OR) protected hydroxyl groups.

21. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein the compounds of ~~general~~ formula (I) in which Z and/or Z′ are (-OR) protected hydroxyl groups are obtained by means of the protection of the corresponding compounds in which Z and Z′ are free hydroxyl groups.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a~~ A compound ~~of general~~ according to claim 1, wherein formula (I) is obtained from formula (VI)



(VI)

~~wherein A has the meaning indicated in claim 1, for obtaining a compound of general formula (I) defined in claim 1~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A is selected from any of the moieties corresponding to ~~general~~ formulas (A2) and (A3).

24. (New) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R is a hydroxyl protective group selected from silyl-ethers and esters.